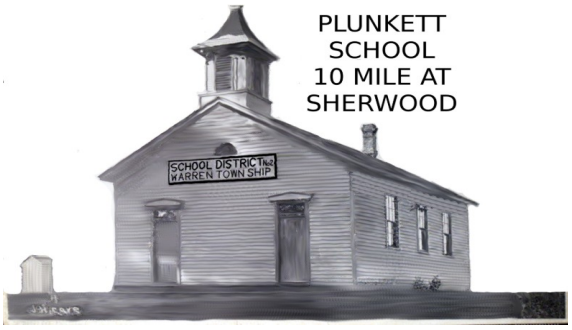
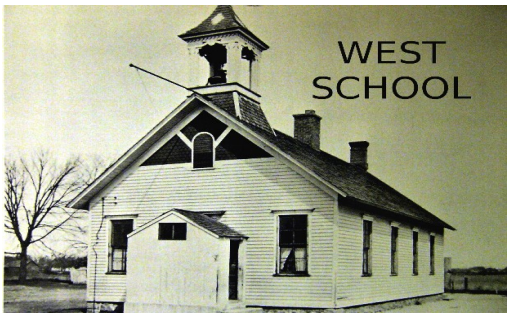
Old Warren Schools



Schools were non existent for most of the history of our area. People could not read or write. Children had to work for the family to survive. They learned survival skills from their parents. Women taught the children. When a boy was old enough he would go with his father to learn and work. After 1840 a few home schools were formed. Some families allowed visiting teachers to sleep in and gave them food in exchange for work and "schooling" their children. A schoolmaster was supposed to be able to make quill pens, be able to defeat the largest boy in the class in a fist fight and maintain discipline. The birch rod was an indispensable part of his equipment and any pupil who misbehaved would feel its sting. Women school teachers had to be courageous to teach. (Willis F Dunbar 284) Women were also used because they would work for less money.

The first known school in Warren was s split log school house the farmers built near Creek Road (Chicago Road) and Ryan roads. This school house was also used for a church for both the Methodist and Baptist groups. This log building also had split log benches. Usually there were in these log schools boards laid across pegs driven into the walls and used for desks. Rather uncomfortable to say the least. Early log schools usually had just a fireplace rather than a stove so it was hot by the fire and cold away from it. Teachers were often paid a sum per each pupil taught. There were often few if any books. The education was very basic. Church buildings were sometimes used for schools.



West school was built in **1894** to the south on Ryan Road. That burned down in 1931.A newer better red brick building was built to the south on Ryan Road and is still standing.

The **North school built in 1859** was also called the Berz school. It was located on the West side of Mound just South of 15 Mile Road. It became part of the Warren Consolidated School District in 1941, It was sold in August of 1952.

The South school was built in 1866. It was located on the East side of Mound Road between 13 Mile Road and 12 Mile Road. There was also an **East School built before 1875** on Chicago Road between Van Dyke and Mound. The **Leonard Schemm School** was at Nine mile at Hoover. The 1865 **Jeremiah O'Leary School** at Bunert & Frazo burned about 1875. Probably leading August and Mine Bunert to donate land so local children would be closer at the **Bunert One Room School built in 1875**. It housed students in grades 1-8. The 1869 **Plunkett school** was named after Mortimer Plunkett who taught there 1900-1916 after Frank Bacon. Mort had a farm in southern Van Dyke. Note that school was in use before school district formed. **These had grades 1-8. St Clement School** before 1868. All of the above were one room schools. Schools with two or more rooms followed. A larger two room Bunert school was built in 1927. **Murthumn High** was built in 1926. **Busch High** 1921. Students could attend either. **Lincoln** 1921. **Harding** 1925. **Ellis** 1926. **Groesbeck**, **Mckinley**, **Macomb Park** 1928. **Ladd** 1941, **Victory** 1942. In 1944 a new 6 room school was built and named **Charwood** after Betty Chargo and Irene Woodward. **Miller** 1950. **Peck** 1961 **CLHS** 1962. **Flynn** 1973. Kennedy, Carlson, Washington, Roose, Wolf, Crothers, in 1960s. More information on schools is at macombhistory.us

Teacher's Contract usually went as follows: **The teacher may not have company of men, Must be home by 8 pm,** Must not loiter in ice-cream stores, May not leave town without permission, May not smoke or drink, **May not ride in a carriage or auto with any man,** Must not dress in bright colors, **Must wear at least two petticoats,** No makeup, Must sweep and scrub classroom floor, Must build wood fire at 7 am, Must not get married. Must be able to survive on $75 a month and buy all children's school supplies out of that also. My grand-father in his eighties helped me in doing square roots in high school. On many occasions old timers outperformed recent high school graduates on math geography, history, many long years after their simple 8 grades of education ended. Many people say they actually got a better education than children today. If you doubt that take the 6th grade test on page 126 or at warrenhistory.info